

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a patient suffering from aphthous, said method comprising orally applying to said patient a composition consisting essentially of a topical anti-inflammatory steroid and an inhibitor of TNF- $\alpha$  selected from pentoxifylline (PTX) or thalidomide.
2. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a patient suffering from aphthous, said method comprising orally applying to said aphthous a composition consisting essentially of an immunosuppressive agent and an inhibitor of TNF- $\alpha$ .
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said topical anti-inflammatory steroid is selected from [cyclosporin, decadron] dexamethasone, fluocinonide, and triamcinolone acetonide.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein said immunosuppressive agent is FK 506.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [or 2], wherein said composition is applied orally as an ointment, a gel, or a rinse.

7. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said composition consists essentially of dexamethasone and PTX.

8. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said composition consists essentially of dexamethasone and thalidomide.

9. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said composition consists essentially of fluocinonide and PTX.

10. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said composition consists essentially of fluocinonide and thalidomide.

11. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said composition consists essentially of triamcinolone acetonide and PTX.

12. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said composition consists essentially of triamcinolone acetonide and thalidomide.